

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that our Republican colleagues have brought up the CMS report because, while they try to proclaim that this is some kind of revelation, what it actually verifies is what we've been saying all along, which is that we will expand the coverage in this country, not by the 30 million people, which was originally projected, but now by 34 million people. For a 1 percent increase in our total health care costs, which is something that we always said we were going to do, we are going to insure 11 percent more of the population. That's a pretty good deal.

Yet there was another big surprise in that CMS report, not just that we are going to insure more people than we thought, but that we will extend the life of Medicare's trust fund, not just by 9 years as we thought, but now by 12 years—all the way to 2029.

Yes, there was some news in the CMS report. It is good news for the American people; it is good news for Medicare, and it is good news for the Democratic Congress, which did this great service for the American people.

A NEW REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON EFFECTS OF HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we got some interesting news from the Obama administration's own number crunchers last week. Though it comes as no surprise to those who opposed the government takeover of health care, which became law last month, we learned that this takeover increases national health care spending by \$311 billion. Plus, the Federal actuaries reported that 18 million taxpayers will be socked with \$33 billion in fines for not purchasing government-approved health care.

In direct contradiction to President Obama's promise of, if you like your plan, you can keep it, the report stated that half of the 14.8 million seniors who enjoy Medicare Advantage will be forced to leave the program due to lower benefits. That means about 20,000 in my district alone will likely lose their plans.

Too bad we didn't have this detailed report before the government takeover became law, but as the saying goes: Better late than never.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VA RESEARCH WEEK

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National VA Research Week, recognizing 85 years of VA medical research. Since 1925, the VA has led the way in cutting-edge medical research, turning ideas into discoveries and into

innovations which have improved the quality of life for generations of our military veterans.

Many Americans may not realize that some of medical science's greatest achievements have been as the result of research conducted at the VA. The CAT scan and the cardiac pacemaker are but two of the trailblazing innovations made possible through VA-funded research.

Today, the VA is the worldwide leader in important medical research, such as in the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injuries and of neuroprosthetic technologies related to amputations and to spinal cord injuries of our brave wounded warriors.

So, this week, as we celebrate the pioneers of the past 85 years, let us also recognize today's VA researchers, who are leading the way to finding the medical breakthroughs of tomorrow.

□ 1230

DAY OF PRAYER

(Mr. HARPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Governor Haley Barbour has proclaimed today as a Day of Prayer in my home State of Mississippi to remember Mississippians who suffered devastating losses of life and property in Saturday's horrific tornadoes and for those families who lost loved ones in last week's oil rig explosion.

One of the tornadoes was an EF4 that left a path of destruction across Mississippi. Communities have come together to comfort families, clear debris, and accumulate what personal possessions could be found.

Equally, Mississippians are experiencing grief in reaction to the drilling incident in the Gulf of Mexico. As neighbors and families mourn, we are reminded of the character of Mississippians in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Today I join folks from across Mississippi in praying for those families affected. I commend Governor Haley Barbour for his leadership and for appropriately designating today as the Day of Prayer.

Though tragic, neither of these events will break the spirit of Mississippi and her people. Our people will persevere.

IN SUPPORT OF ELIMINATION OF PAY RAISE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2011

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will consider legislation to stop the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress during this fiscal year.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill because I believe strongly that Members of Congress should not receive a pay raise when so many families in Nevada are struggling with job loss, homes that are under water, and uncertainty about their economic future.

Unemployment in my district has reached record levels, the highest in 25 years. Families are tightening their belts and too many hardworking Nevadans are desperate to find a job. It would be unconscionable during this time of economic hardship for Members of Congress to receive an automatic pay raise. Our action today will send a message to the American people that we are changing the way that business is done in Washington and we are serious about putting our economy on the path to recovery and restoring economic security for all Americans.

THE DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, in case there's any doubt about the new report released by CMS this week, the report says it all. The Democrats' health care bill fails to provide the reform taxpayers deserve and expected. In fact, the report clearly states that the health care spending will go up by \$310 billion over the next 10 years and that the new long-term care CLASS Program poses serious risk of being unsustainable.

This is just another example of the Federal Government's creating yet another unsustainable program and failing to empower the American people. We have set ourselves up for more spending, more burdens that we simply cannot afford, while taking away benefits from seniors and disabled Americans who need them most.

While Republicans offered positive solutions to tackle the spending, Democrats created a massive new government-run health care plan that hurts the economy, interferes with patient choices, and does nothing to bring down the cost of health care.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better than that.

PASS FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it's not even 3 years since Bear Stearns landed flat on its back, that Lehman Brothers landed flat on its back, that AIG contributed to a destruction of our economy which resulted in the destruction of \$17 trillion of the household wealth of the American people.

We have spent the last year assembling a commonsense, market-oriented